

July 2000

Number 11

# RCFTS NEWS



This is the eleventh issue of the RCFTS News. We hope it is helpful, informative and of interest to you.

The RCFTS newsletter, Coordinators List, and Users Guide can be obtained at internet address <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/rcfts.htm>. Contact anyone on the SRB if you experience difficulties in pulling down the newsletter from the internet site and we will be glad to either mail or fax a copy to your state.



## RFA UPDATES

- ❖ The deobligation and EZ/EC fields on Screen CP08 have been corrected and will now retain entries by field offices.
- ❖ You can now run all National Office FOCUS canned reports by program area.

If there are problems with any of the RFA turnovers, please advise a member of the SRB.



## Multi-Program Related Issues



### ❖ RCFTS INTEGRITY:

Most all of you have been contacted recently to update spreadsheets containing information pulled from RCFTS. As the requests for information come in from Congress, FOI, the public and the White House this type of activity increases.

The accuracy of the data is often questionable – in some cases very questionable. For many states, comparing obligations from the accounting system to RCFTS obligations produced numerous discrepancies. As you know, RCFTS is the only place for us to pull many types of information such as number of users, applicant type, purpose of funds, priority weights, etc. Two weeks after we had gone through the clean-up effort, we ran a report again and information was still missing. It had been emailed or called into the National Office but RCFTS was never updated.

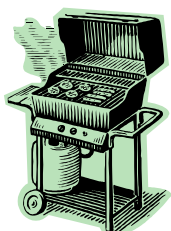


We are frequently asked to provide a list of obligations to Indian Tribes and Indian users. Since this is a small sub-set of the information and mistakes are magnified, a lot of time is spent trying to verify the information. We can quickly scan down the list and determine that maybe the Town of Smithville is not an Indian Tribe and call the state to make sure that is accurate. But we cannot go through and identify any borrowers that may be missing from the list because they have been miscoded. Please make sure your Indian projects are correctly tracked. You can verify this by pulling an Ad Hoc report of all applicant type "1" codes.



Congress and the administration are constantly looking for ways to trim costs; therefore, it is important for us to be able to accurately report all those who are being helped through our programs. Much of this reporting can only come from RCFTS.

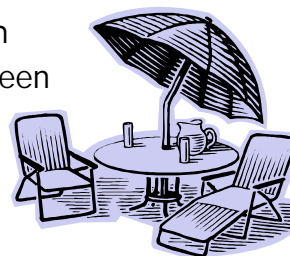
Each year we are required to determine previous year performance measurements and project them for the new year. In Water and Waste, the number of new and existing users is used to determine the number of actual people that our funding is helping. If the user information is missing or the purpose of funds is miscoded or missing all together we do not accurately reflect the benefits of our program.



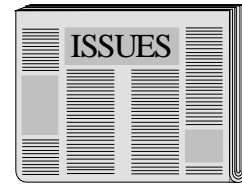
We have already been asked to provide a listing of FY00 borrowers along with many other data elements as soon as the fiscal year has ended. We will have two weeks to have RCFTS updated before this report is run. There are still several loans that show up under FY00 that are old loans and grants. We are asking that ALL State Offices please **RUN AN AD HOC REPORT FOR FY00 OBLIGATIONS ASAP** and verify the borrowers listed within the report. This report should be run by FY, not by obligation date. If you have questions on how to clean-up the report, please call or e-mail Robin or Andrea.

#### ❖ **WEB FOCUS CANNED REPORTS:**

From now on we are only making updates/changes to the Web FOCUS canned reports. There will be no more updates/changes to Native canned FOCUS reports. We can no longer guarantee the validity of the data in these reports (native FOCUS). Therefore, it is important that you start using Web FOCUS (at least for canned reports) as soon as possible. If you need access to Web FOCUS please e-mail Andrea or Robin with your State, Name, FOCUS ID, and the programs with which you work. We will e-mail you back when your ID has been added. There has been no word as far as AD-Hoc reporting is concerned. So you will still have access to all of your old Ad-Hoc reports in native FOCUS.



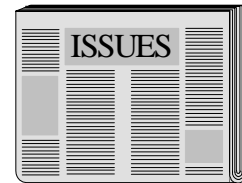
## RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE



Refer to multi-program issues.

*If you have any questions, contact Robin Pulkkinen in the National Office.*

## RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

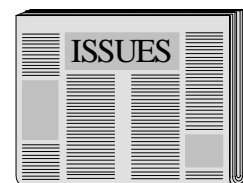


### PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

For any Community Facilities loans and grants please include information in RCFTS regarding jobs created, jobs saved, and businesses assisted. In past RCFTS training sessions, we have stressed that these fields are mainly for RBEGs but this is now being looked at as a performance measure for Community Facilities. We understand that some offices have been collecting this information anyway if it was available from the Project Summary, so keep up the good work!

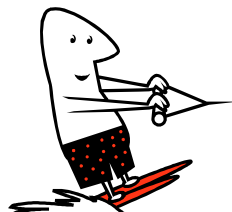
*If you have any questions, contact Andrea Barnett in the National Office.*

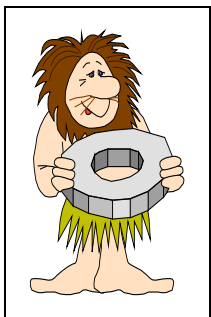
## RURAL BUSINESS SERVICE



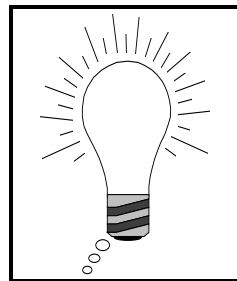
Refer to multi-program issues.

*If you have any questions, contact Sylvia Neal in the National Office.*





If you have any questions, problems or suggestions, please notify a RCFTS System Review Board (SRB) member listed below. Your input could be invaluable.



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